॥ श्रीकृष्णाय नमः ॥ ॥ अस्मत्कुलपतिः श्रीगोवर्धनधरप्रभुरस्मानपातु सदा विजयते ॥

॥ श्रीमदाचार्यचरणकमलेभ्यो नमः ॥ ॥ श्रीमद्वल्लभाचार्यमहाप्रभूणां चरणारविंदयोः शरणं प्रपद्ये ॥

The Jagannātha Purī Inscriptions: Relating to Vallabha Sampradāya

Author – Umang Goswami, the 17th Generational Descendent of the Vallabhāchārya Mahāprabhu and Acharya of Vallabha Sampradāya (Pushtimarg)

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1. Introduction and tour to Jagannath Puri

In the years 2016 and 2024, my family and I, along with our devoted followers, embarked on a pilgrimage to the sacred site of Śrī Jagannātha Purī Puruṣottama Dhāma. During this journey, we were fortunate to see copper plate inscriptions & paper manuscript containing historical accounts of the Jagadguru Śrī Vallabhācārya Mahāprabhu, and his Digvijay at the Jagannātha Purī Temple; as well as of his two sons, Śrī Gopīnātha Jī Prabhucaraṇa and Prabhucaraṇa Goswami Śrī Viṭṭhalanātha Gusāījī Mahārāja.

Following the traditions, our ancestral 'tīrtha-purohita' Raghunātha Rāmakṛṣṇa Gochikāra (a.k.a. Hāthī Vālā Paṇḍā) presented these historical documents to my grandfather - Padma Bhushan Aacharya Dr. Gokulotsavji Maharaj Goswami; to my father - Aacharya Dr. Vrajotsavji Goswami; and, to me, during our pilgrimage tours to Puri in 2016 and 2024.

In addition to the two copper plate inscriptions and one paper manuscript, we were also shown a copper plate inscription. It was partially damaged, slightly bent, and had likely undergone erosion. This copper plate inscription features a large designed header, followed by well-formatted text enclosed within a pictorial border on all four sides. The text appears to be inscribed in the Telugu script, and according to Raghunātha R. Gochikāra, this copper plate was given by Vallabhacharya Mahaprabhu himself.

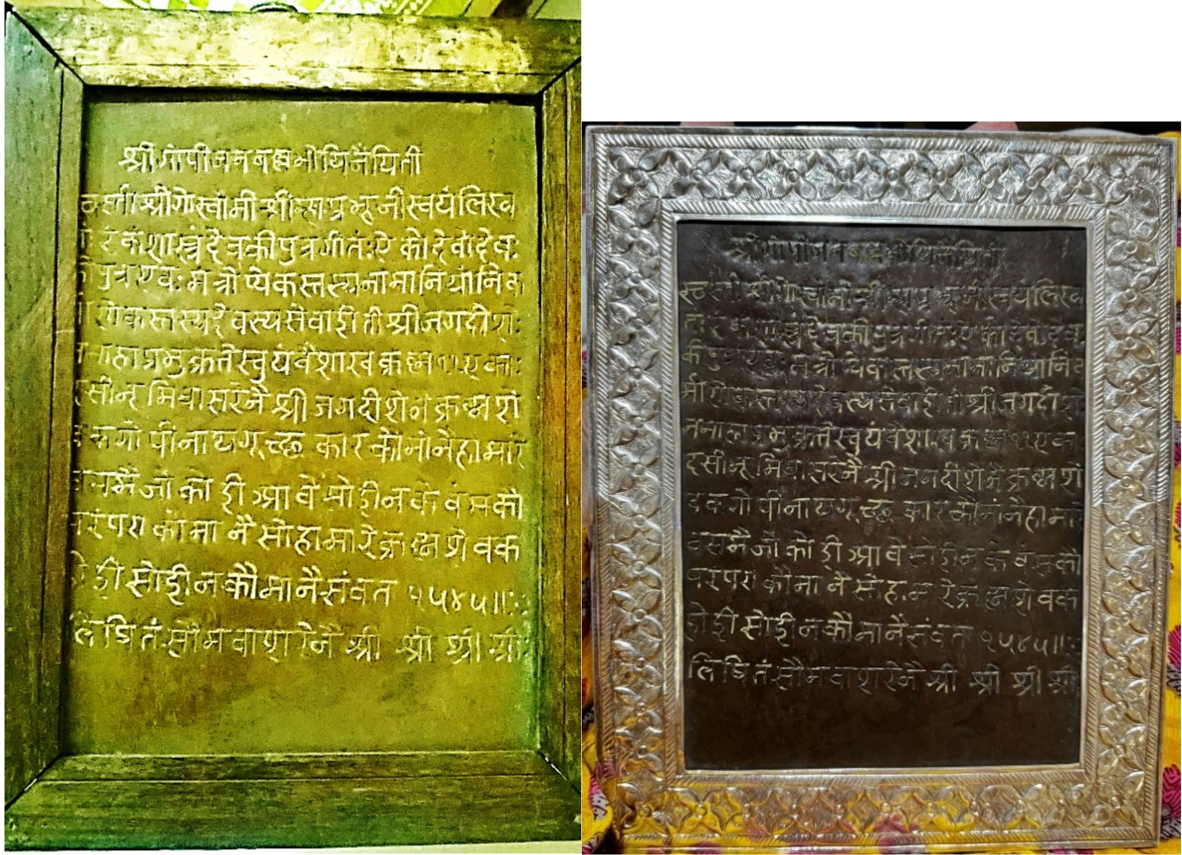
Once this copper plate inscription has been thoroughly studied and its text satisfactorily transcribed and translated, it shall also be published.

After Raghunātha R. Gochikāra showed us these documents which were issued to his ancestor whom Vallabhacharya Mahaprabhu accepted as his 'tīrtha-purohita' and his decedents, we

subsequently issued him a 'lekha-patra' perpetually recognizing him and his future generations as the 'tīrtha-purohita' for our family and our future generations that shall come.

The pictures of the manuscript and copper plate inscription featured in this article were kindly shown to with us by our esteemed tīrtha-purohita, Raghunātha R. Gochikāra, who has them in his personal possession. I tried to transcribe and typeset these valuable historical documents to the utmost level of accuracy. The transcription done by me might require revisions and corrections; thus, I also inserted images of these documents taken with a mobile phone. This work was undertaken with great care and attention to detail, in the hopes of preserving and disseminating this invaluable information to the scholarly community.

2. Copper Plate Inscription relating to Vallabhacharya Mahaprabhu



2.1. Overview

This copper plate inscription was shown to us back in 2016 and again in 2024. In 2016 the copper plate was framed in wood, but when it was presented to us in 2024, it was framed in a silver frame. I have also attached a picture of this inscription taken in 2016, as it appears that the copper plate may have had some white paste carefully filled into the inscribed letters at that time, likely to enhance their visibility and ease of reading.

2.2. Transcript

Note - The herein below transcript of the copper plate inscription had been done by me. For the purpose of which above image, few other images clicked in Tour 2024 and one image taken in Tour 2016 are consulted.

श्री गोपीजनबल्लभोयि[नै or जै]यिती

स्वस्ती श्रीगोस्वामी श्रीम्हप्रभू जी स्वयं लिखतं

[:] एंकं शास्त्रं देवकीपुत्र गीतं [:] [ऐ]को देवो देव [:]

की पुत्र एव [:] मंत्रोप्येकस्तस्य नामानियानि क

मर्ा [?]कस्तस्य देवस्य सेवा [इ]ती श्रीजगदीशे [:]

[?] [मा]हाप्रभु क्रते स्वुयं वैशाख क्र[?] ११ एका [:]

दसी [नृ][मि]वासरेनै श्रीजगदीशेनै क्र[?]शे

दक गोपीनाथ गुच्छकार कौ मा[ं]नै हामारे

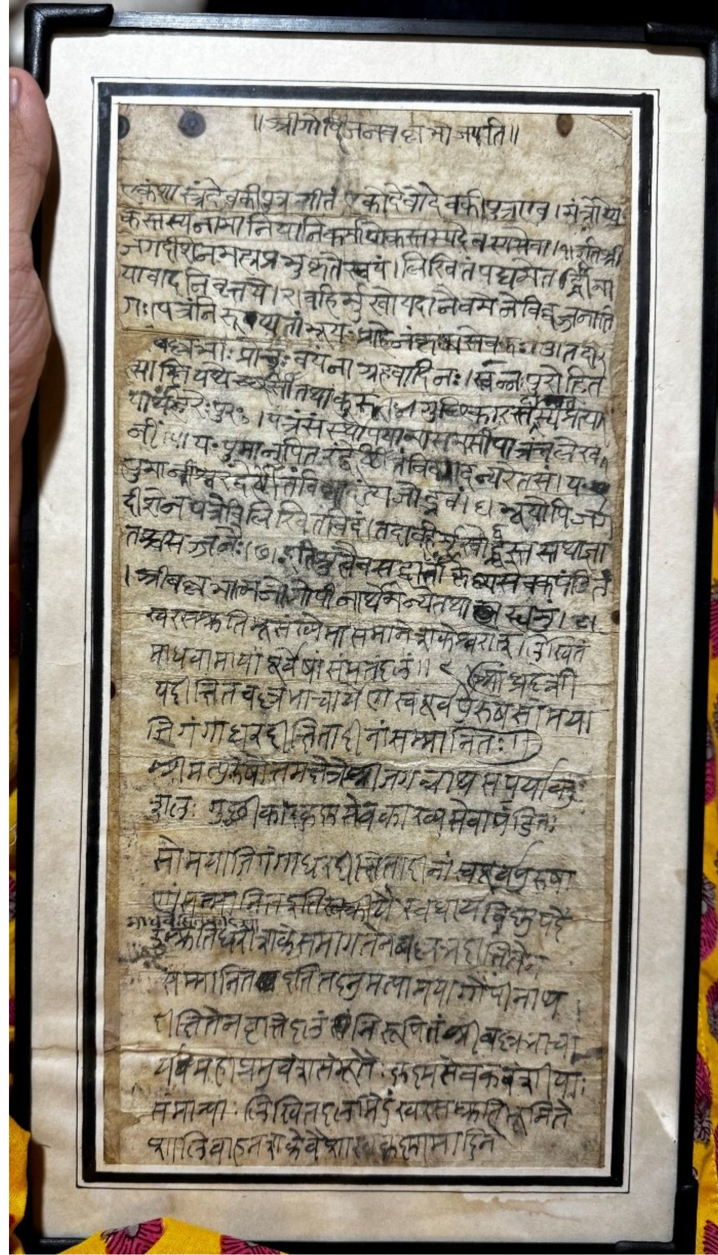
वस मै जो को[ई] आवे सो [ई]न के वंस कौ

परंपरा कौ मानै सो हामारे क्र[?]शे वक

हो[ई] सो[ई]न कौ मानै - संवत १५४५॥ :·:

लिषि तं सौमवाशरेनै श्री श्री श्री श्रीः

3. Gopinath Prabhucaraṇa's *Vṛtti Patra*


॥ श्रीगोपीजनवल्लभो जयति ॥

3.1. Overview

This inscription was previously published at (Śrī Gopīnātha Prabhucaraṇa, 2023, pp. 32-33) a, and the transcript was prepared by consulting it. As our tīrtha-purohita Raghunātha Rāmakṛṣṇa Gochikāra (Hāthī Vālā Paṇḍā) stated this inscription is written on a special kind of paper, perhaps made from silk, with a unique ink.

An ancient palm-leaf manuscript containing pictorial and textual records of Śrī Gopīnātha Prabhucaraṇa's tour to Jagannath Puri, as well as the Gajapati Maharaj of Puri's surrender to Gopīnātha Prabhucaraṇa, was also published at (Śrī Gopīnātha Prabhucaraṇa, 2023, pp. 54-58) with photocopies of the original manuscript and their translation from Odia to Hindi language.

3.2. Transcript

श्रीगोपीजनवल्लभो जयति

एकं शास्त्रं देवकी पुत्र गीतम् एको देवो देवकी पुत्र एव।
मन्त्रोऽप्येकस्तस्य नामानि यानि कर्मोप्येकस्तस्य देवस्य सेवा॥१॥

इति श्रीजगदीशेन महाप्रभु कृते स्वयम्। लिखितं पद्यम् एतद्धि मायावाद निवृत्तये॥२॥
बर्हिमुखो यदा नैव मेने विद्वज्जनातिगः। पत्रं निरूप्यतां भूयः प्राहैनं कृष्ण सेवकः॥
तदा श्रीवल्लभाः प्रोचुः वयं नाग्रहवादिनः। त्वन्नः पुरोहितः साक्षी यथेच्छसि तथा कुरु॥४॥
गुच्छिकारस्तदा तस्य प्रत्ययार्थं हरेः पुरः। पत्रं संस्थापयामासमसीपात्रं च लेखनीम्॥५॥
यः पुमान् पितरं द्वेष्टि तं विद्याद् अन्यरेतसम्। यः पुमानीश्वरं द्वेष्टि तं विद्याद् अन्त्यजोद्भवम्।
भूयोपि जगदीशेन पत्रे विलिखितं त्विदम्। तदा बहिर्मुखो ध्वस्तः तथा ज्ञातश्च सज्जनैः॥७॥
इति श्रुत्वैव सद् वार्तां कृष्ण सेवक पण्डितम्। श्रीवल्लभात्मजो गोपीनाथो मन्ये तथा ह्यमुम्॥८॥
ख रस श्रुति भू (१४६०)[1] सङ्ख्ये मासमाने शकेश्वरात्। लिखितं माधवामायां पूर्वेषां सम्मतं दलम्॥९॥

आन्ध्र देशीय दीक्षित वल्लभाचार्येण स्वपूर्वपुरुष सोमयाजि गङ्गाधर दीक्षितानां सम्मानितः श्रीमत्पुरुषोत्तम क्षेत्रे श्रीजगन्नाथ सपर्या कुशलः गुच्छिकार कृष्णसेवकाख्य सेवा पण्डितः सोमयाजि गङ्गाधर दीक्षितानां स्वपूर्वपुरुषाणां सम्मानित इति स्वकीयैरवधार्य विष्णुपदेन्दु-श्रुति-धराशके (१४१०)[2] समागतेन वल्लभ दीक्षितेन वृत्ति दलं निरूपितं श्रीवल्लभाचार्य महाप्रभु वंश सम्भूतैः कृष्णसेवक वंशीयाः सम्मान्याः लिखितं दलमिदं ख-रस-श्रुति-भूमिते (१४६०)[3] शालिवाहन शके वैशाख कृष्णामादिने

[1] As noted in (Śrī Gopīnātha Prabhucaraṇa, 2023, pp. 32-33)

[2] As noted in (Śrī Gopīnātha Prabhucaraṇa, 2023, pp. 32-33)

[3] As noted in (Śrī Gopīnātha Prabhucaraṇa, 2023, pp. 32-33)

4. Copper Plate bearing the name of Prabhucaraṇa Vitthalnath Gusainji Maharaj





4.1. Overview

This copper plate has designer borders with floral pattern artwork in it. The textual content of it is also clearly visible and legible. Though it is inscribed in Devanāgarī script the way it is formatted, typesetted is very different. Unexpected usages of colon symbol (:) is present at completion of every line whose purpose of usage is not clear. This colon sign must not be the Devanāgarī script's Visarga ः character as it the force and stroke of hammer in that place looks very different from those done for visarga character. It might also be a sign to indicate bold characters as the last lines have it on the both ends.

4.2. Transcript

श्री श्री जगन्नाथ नमः

संवत १६१४ माघमासे [:]

सुकल पक्षे दशम्यां तिथौ काकरे वालौपनामक [:]

श्रीगोकुल निवासि वल्लभाचार्यात्मज विठ्ठले[:]

श्वर गोस्वामिः काशयां यात्राथँ समाग [·]

त्यस्याकीयतार्थ पौरोहित्यानिवा[सा] [ठ]केपा [:]

ध्यायत्मज लखोपाहयायरार्मजे ब्र[ह्म] [:]

णायहन्तमस्ति अरसद्वश मौतूद परिपाल [:]

नीयम :·-

[:] मोस्[?]मी श्री श्री विललन्नाथजि [:]

[:] स· १६१४ माघ मासे सु[?][?] दसमि [परुषोतम][?]

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